programme as having the potential of becoming an "Islamic Bomb";

(b) if so, what are the details of this interview; and

(c) what has been the reaction of the Arab League to the reported statement of the Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) and (b) During Prime Minister's interview to visiting US journalists on March 26, 1987 one of the questions posed to him described the Pakistani nuclear programme as being oriented towards developing the 'Islamic Bomb'. The Prime Minister acknowledged that the Pakistan nuclear programme had indeed been thus described. In response to another query he also mentioned that the Pakistan nuclear bomb could conceivably be made available to others, but he did not name any country.

(c) While there has been no reaction in the matter from the Arab League Headquarters their Permanent Observer at the UN had commented about it in which, amongst other things, he recalled his respect for India's position on many issues in world affairs as also the fact that the Arabs looked to India for inspiration and ideas. Government have made him aware of the full position.

Social Forestry Schemes

424. SHRI KALPNATH RAI:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the schemes that are being implemented in the States to develop social forestry; and

(b) what is the progress made in this regard during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The Social Forestry Schemes are being implemented in the States. The Centrally Sponsored Schemes of National Wastelands Development Board are:

1. Rural Fuelwood Plantations including afforestation of Eco-Sensitive Non-Himalayan area.

2. Soil, Water and Tree Conservation in the Himalayan Operation Soilwatch.

3. Establishment of Silvipastural Farms.

4. Decentralised People's Nurseries.

(b) The information in respect of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes being monitored by the National Wastelands Development Board is annexed as statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Year	Physical/Financial Achievements		
			Central assistance released Rs. in lakhs (rounded off)	Area planted/ treated in hectares.	No. of seedlings raised in lakhs
1	Rural fuelwood Plantations including afforestation of Eco-Sensitive Non-Himalayan areas.	1985-86	1591	94094	..
		1986-87	1613	89834	..

1	2	3	4	5	6
2	Soil, water and tree conservation in the Himalayan Operation Soilwatch .	1985-86 1986-87	1177 1078	34173 26950	.. ..
3	Establishment of Silvipastural Farms* .	1985-86 1986-87	.. 182	.. ..	.. ..
4	Decentralised Peoples Nurseries . .	1985-86 1986-87	414** 1006	.. ..	.. 2005

*Scheme started in late 1986-87. Physical achievement expected in 1987-88.

**Grants released at the end of the Year—Achievements included in the year 1986-87.

Message sent to Sri Lankan Government on ethnic issue

425. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI K. GOPALAN:

Will the Miinster of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India sent any message on the 9th February, 1987 to the Government of Sri Lanka regarding ethnic problem of Tamils; and

(b) if so, what were the salient features of that message and what was the reaction and response of the Sri Lankan Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The message was conveyed by our High Commissioner in Colombo on the 10th February, 1987.

(b) Prime Minister's message of the 10th February is given in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below). The Sri Lankan President's response of the 12th February is given in the attached Statement-II. (*See* below)

Statement—I

Message from P.M. to President Jaywardene conveyed by High Commissioner Dixit on 10-2-87

As far as the current military continue and other discriminatory measures like economic and communications blockade affecting civilians exist, India is not in a position to resume discussions with Tamil militants. While this is for the present, India will remain willing to resume the peace process if and when these actions are withdrawn.

India is firmly of the view that the proposals which emerged on the 19th of December after Mr. Natwar Singh and Mr. Chidambaram's visit to Colombo, must clearly be affirmed by the Government of Sri Lanka as a basis and only a beginning point for further negotiations. India is also of the view that the final framework of a solution based on those proposals can only be forged when Sri Lanka Government and Tamil side come together again for negotiations.

If the Government of Sri Lanka continues the economic blockade and military operations against Tamils, prospects of violence will increase. India's assessment is that the conflict will be prolonged and will escalate.

Statement—II

Response of President Jayewardene (to PM's message of February 10) handed over to High Commissioner Dixit on 12-2-87.

The response to the Government of India's message being given below is predicated on the clear understanding that all further discussions to be held or solution to be evolved shall be within the framework of the independence, territorial integrity and unity of Sri Lanka:

1. If the armed separatists (LTTE) agree to cease armed violent operations and related military preparations and desist from any activity aimed at setting up or interfering with the legal administration of the area, and this is announced by them; the Govern-